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Message Text

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20
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-13

EB-11 AGR-20 RSR-01 /122 W
---------- 051402
R 260954 Z JUN 73
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 678

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, IS
SUBJ: ISRAELI WEST BANK LAND PURCHASE

REF: JERUSALEM 423, TEL AVIV 3398

1. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THAT SALE OF WEST BANK LAND TO PRIVATE ISRAELIS PROCEEDS DESPITE APRIL 22 CABINET NON- DECISION. HAARETZ CORRESPONDENT LITANI REPORTED JUNE 19 THAT ARAB LANDOWNERS IN COMMUNITIES ADJACENT TO JERUSALEM CONTINUE TO SELL AT PRICES UP TO 35,000 ISRAELI POUNDS PER DUNUM. WITHIN EXTENDED JERUSALEM MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES IN FORMER JORDANIAN TERRITORY, LITANI STATED, THERE IS ALMOST NO MORE LAND AVAILABLE IN PRIME RESIDENTIAL AREAS. WE HAVE SINCE BEEN TOLD BY HISTADRUT- CONNECTED OFFICIAL THAT ARAB LANDOWNERS HAD RECENTLY OFFERED HIS ORGANIZATION LAND ON WEST BANK NEAR JERUSALEM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HISTADRUT RECREATION CENTER. PRICE WAS ABOUT 40,000 PER DUNUM, WHICH HE SAID WAS LESS THAN HALF THE PRICE OF SIMILAR LAND IN ISRAEL. HISTADRUT DID NOT INTEND TO BUY THERE FOR POLITICAL AND RELATED REASONS, BUT HE THOUGHT OTHERS WERE DOING SO BY SAME TECHNIQUES DESCRIBED REFTELS.

2. COMMENT: THREATS OF PUNISHMENT FROM AMMAN SEEM TO HAVE HAD LITTLE EFFECT, AND THIS IS ALSO IMPRESSION WE GET FROM COMMENTS OF WEST BANKERS. PRICES BEING QUOTED SEEM LOWER THAN IN APRIL,
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BUT FEVERISH SPECULATION OF THAT PERIOD HAS APPARENTLY BEEN REPLACED BY STEADIER MARKET SITUATION. AT ALL EVENTS, TRANSFER OF LAND OF EAST JERUSALEM AND NEARBY WEST BANK INTO ISRAELI HANDS CONTINUES.
DAY

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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